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Q19

With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct? 1. It is a herbivorous marine animal. 2. It is found along the entire coast of India. 3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Select the correct answer using the codes given below (a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 only (c) 1 and 3 (d) 3 only Official key: C.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2015 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

(a) 1 and 2. Dugongs are herbivorous marine mammals, but they are not found along the entire Indian coast-only in limited seagrass pockets (Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kachchh, Andaman and Nicobar). Statement 2 is false.

(b)

(b) 2 only. The 'entire coast' claim is wrong, so 2 only cannot be the key.

(c) Official key

(c) 1 and 3. The dugong (sea cow) eats seagrass, and it is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Those two statements are correct and form the official key.

(d)

(d) 3 only. Schedule I protection is true, but herbivory is also true. 3 only is incomplete.

Summary

Official key is (c) 1 and 3. The dugong is a herbivorous marine mammal and a Schedule I species. It is not distributed along the whole Indian coastline. Statement 2 therefore fails. The keyed pair is diet plus legal protection.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

Dugong dugon

Only herbivorous marine mammal in Indian waters

Food

Seagrass beds

Indian hotspots

Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kachchh, A&N

WPA Schedule I

Highest legal protection

Related sirenian

Manatees (Atlantic/American); not native to India

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